

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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IN-DISTRICT TUITION AT  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

The American Legion Department of Michigan





U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



U.S. Department  
of Labor

## Veterans Retraining Assistance Program Fact Sheet

Congress passed, and the President signed into law, the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. Included in this new law is the **Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP)**. VRAP offers up to 12 months of training assistance to unemployed Veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Labor (DOL) are working together to roll out this new program on July 1, 2012.

### ELIGIBILITY

To qualify, a Veteran must:

- Be at least 35 but no more than 60 years old
- Be unemployed
- Have an other than dishonorable discharge
- Not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program (e.g.: the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Assistance)
- Not be in receipt of VA compensation due to unemployability
- Not be enrolled in a Federal or state job training program

### PARTICIPANTS LIMITS AND PAYMENTS

The program is limited to 45,000 participants from July 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012, and to 54,000 participants from **October 1, 2012, through March 31, 2014**. Participants may receive up to 12 months of assistance equal to the monthly full-time payment rate under the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty program (currently \$1,564 per month). DOL will provide employment assistance to every Veteran who participates upon completion of the program. We are accepting VRAP applications now. Please visit eBenefits to apply.

### ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS

Participants must be enrolled in a program of education approved for VA benefits that is offered by a community college or technical school. The program must lead to an Associate Degree, Non-College Degree, or a Certificate, and train the Veteran for a high demand occupation. Search for an approved program here.

### HOW TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION

Click here to read frequently asked questions about VRAP. Call us at 1-800-827-1000 to learn more information about the VOW to Hire Heroes act of 2011, or visit us at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/vow>.



## Will The Payments Under The VRAP Be Sent Directly To The School Like Payments Under The Post- 9/11 GI Bill?

Answer ID 1446 | Published 12/06/2011 08:52 AM | Updated 12/06/2011 02:15 PM

No. The benefit will be paid directly to you and you are responsible for paying your expenses including tuition, fees, and books.

GI Bill Home	Apply For Benefits	Post 911 GI Bill & Other Programs	Resources	Support	Community	Contact
	Vet Success	The Post 9/11 GI Bill	Benefits Resources	Submit A Question	Announcements	Regional Processing Offices
	Apply Online (VONAPP)	Montgomery GI Bill	Education Resources	EBenefits	RSS Feeds	Other Benefits
		Other Programs	Verify Attendance (W.A.V.E.)	FAQ	GI Bill Facebook Page	
		History: Timeline	Student Handouts, Brochures, And Regulations	Educational And Vocational Counseling Services	VA Benefits Twitter Page	
					VA YouTube Channel	
					Related Links	

Compensation and Pension | GI Bill | Vocational Rehabilitation | Home Loans | Life Insurance | Survivors' Benefits | Regional Office Homepages  
Manuals & Regulations | Reports & Surveys | If You Owe VA Money | GovBenefits.gov

VA Home | Privacy Policy | FOIA | Web Policies | No FEAR Act Data | Site Index | USA.gov | White House | National Resource Directory | Inspector General

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs - 810 Vermont Avenue, NW - Washington, DC 20420

3, 861 APPLICATIONS

-2,037 TOTAL USING & IN TRAINING

1,824 VETERAN APPLICATIONS NOT IN USE

x \$1,564 MONTHLY VRAP BENEFIT

\$2,852,736 PER MONTH BENEFIT NOT IN MI.

x 12 MONTHS OF TRAINING

\$ 34,232,832.00 UNREALIZED VA FUNDS

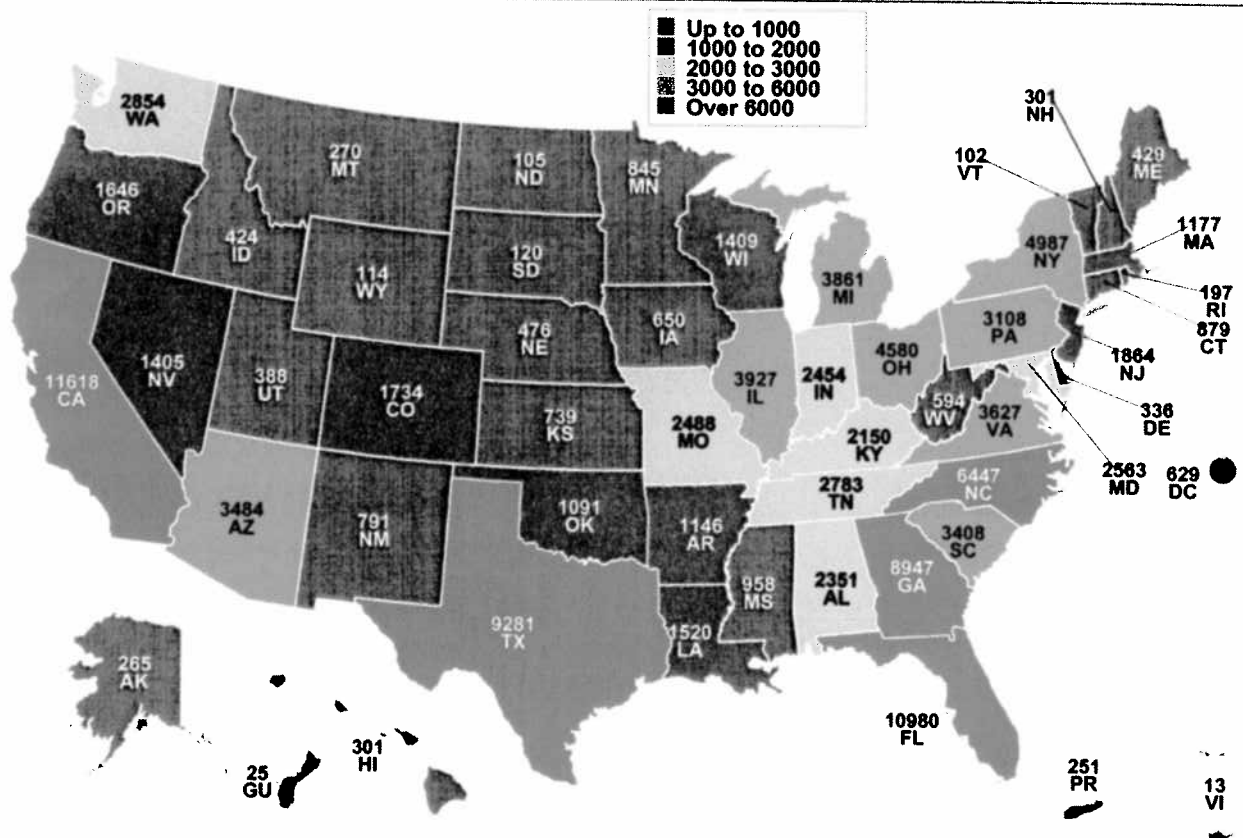
**The American Legion Department of Michigan**



# VRAP Applications Approved

August 29, 2013

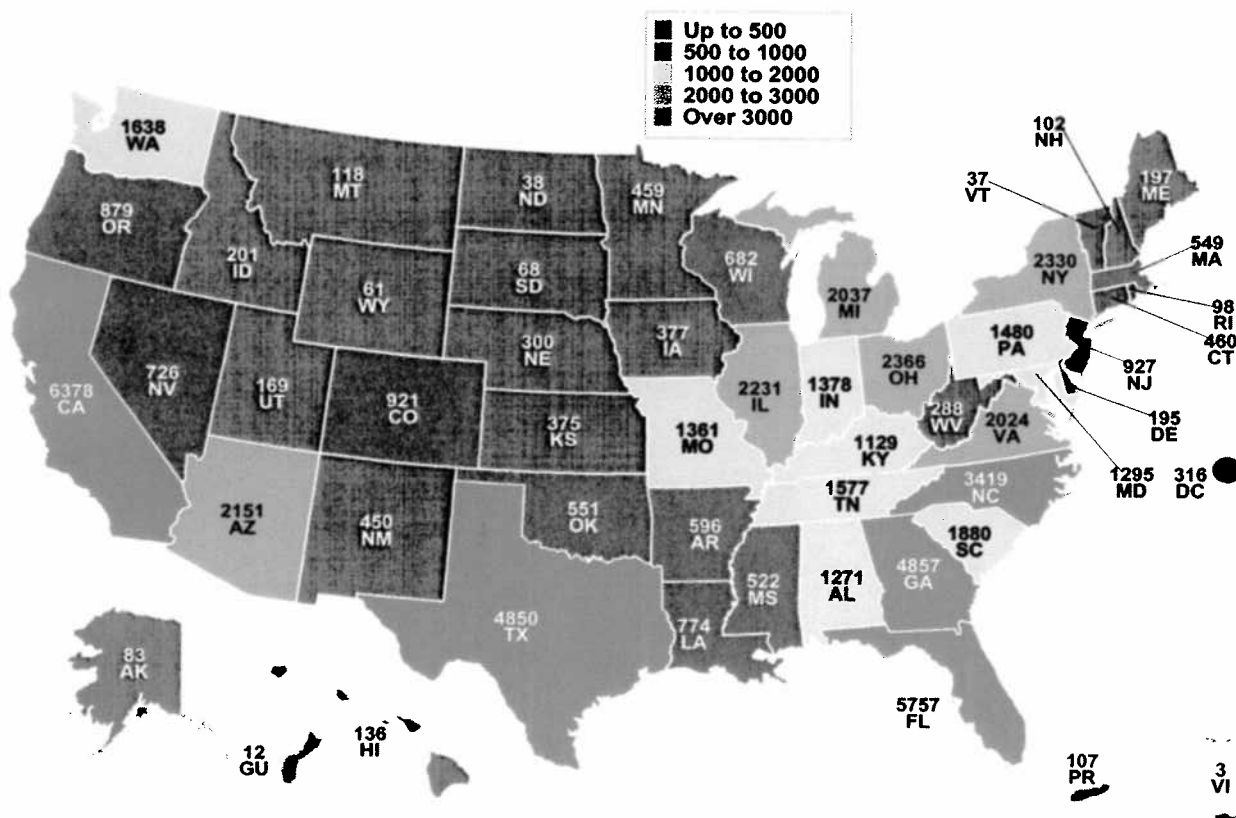
Total Applications: 136,797	Applications Approved: 119,199	Other (Outside USA): 107
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## VRAP Participants in Training

August 29, 2013

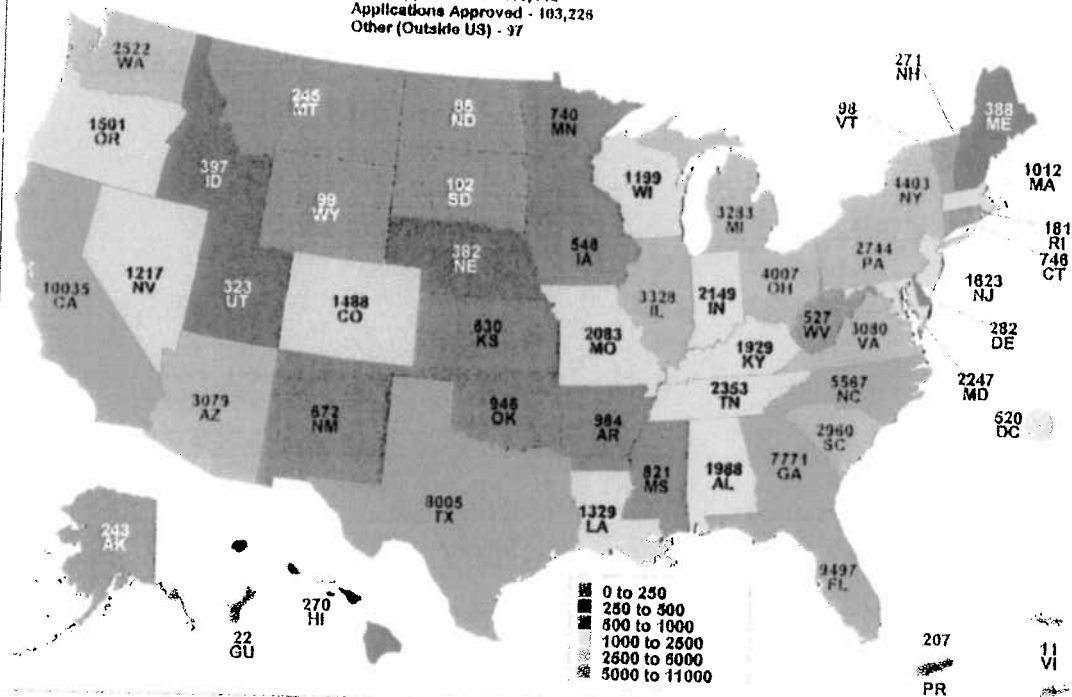
Total in Training: 61,924
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## VRAP Applications Approved

5/23/13

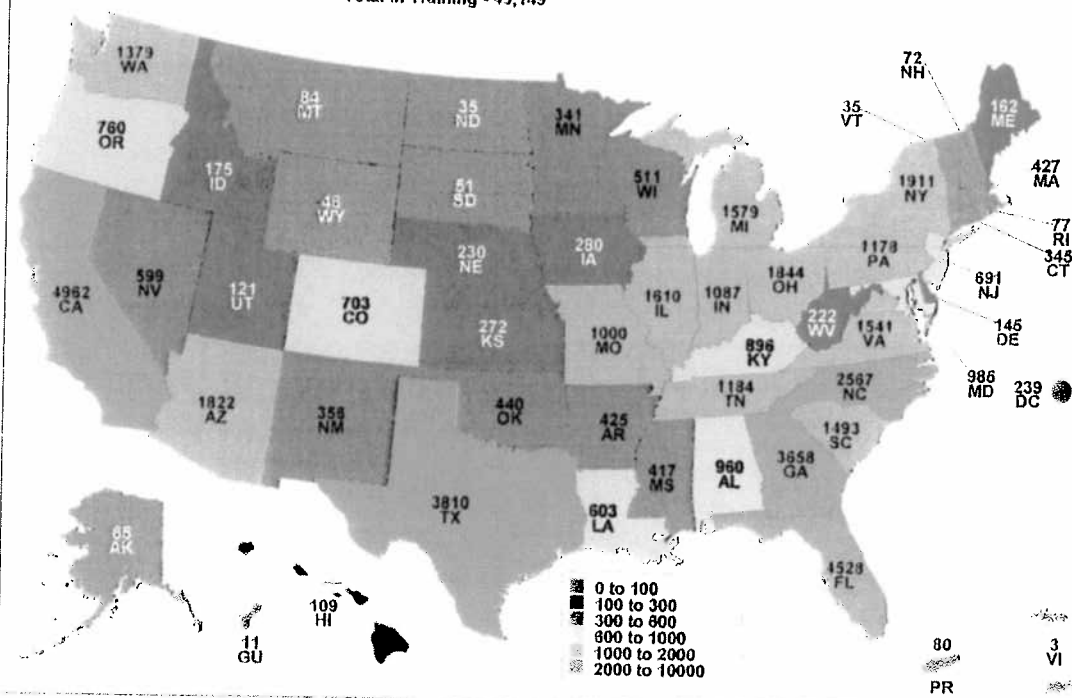
Total Applications - 119,342  
Applications Approved - 103,226  
Other (Outside US) - 97



## VRAP Participants in Training

5/23/13

Total in Training - 49,149



5/9/2013

Applications Approved - 100,826  
Other (Outside US) - 98

2479 WA  
1474 OR  
392 ID  
1185 NV  
9792 CA  
318 UT  
1458 CO  
3022 AZ  
238 AK  
22 GU  
288 HI  
240 MT  
92 ND  
727 MN  
102 SD  
99 WY  
368 NE  
531 IA  
2037 MO  
925 AR  
7817 TX  
1304 LA  
1168 WI  
3219 MI  
3249 IL  
2105 IN  
3913 OH  
1909 KY  
2298 TN  
1954 AL  
804 MS  
2880 SC  
7542 GA  
3219 MI  
3913 OH  
2631 PA  
3014 VA  
5400 NC  
2380 SC  
9276 FL  
289 NH  
97 VT  
377 ME  
984 MA  
175 RI  
727 CT  
1590 NJ  
276 DE  
2188 MD  
494 DC  
198  
11 VI

0 to 250  
250 to 500  
500 to 1000  
1000 to 2500  
2500 to 5000  
5000 to 10000

5/9/2013

Map of the United States showing the number of telephone exchanges per state in 1968. The map is shaded in five levels of gray, corresponding to the number of exchanges. A legend in the bottom right corner defines the shading levels: 0 to 100 (lightest), 100 to 300, 300 to 600, 600 to 1000, 1000 to 2000, and 2000 to 10000 (darkest). Each state is labeled with its two-letter abbreviation and the number of exchanges. For example, California (CA) has 4765 exchanges, Texas (TX) has 3667, and Alaska (AK) has 83. The map also includes Alaska and Hawaii.

State	Number of Exchanges
AK	83
AL	927
AR	409
AZ	1781
CA	4765
CO	863
CT	33
DE	130
DC	218
FL	4271
GA	3456
HI	108
IL	1478
IN	1024
IA	260
KS	258
KY	860
LA	587
MA	410
MD	938
ME	156
MI	1478
MN	323
MO	929
MS	408
MT	78
NC	2431
ND	34
NE	217
NH	70
NJ	869
NM	336
NV	578
NY	1829
OH	1732
OK	430
OR	731
PA	1109
RI	7
SC	1416
SD	49
TN	1076
TX	3667
UT	120
VA	3
VT	32
WA	1355
WV	207
WI	485
WY	41



May XX, 2013

Insert Name  
Insert Address  
Insert Address

Dear (insert name);

The Veteran's Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) is drawing to a close. You may meet qualifications for training through the VA program. You can view eligibility requirements on the flyer enclosed with this letter. I would encourage you to go to the website <http://benefits.va.gov/vow/education.htm> for more information concerning this great opportunity, as well as, the website to apply if you are eligible.

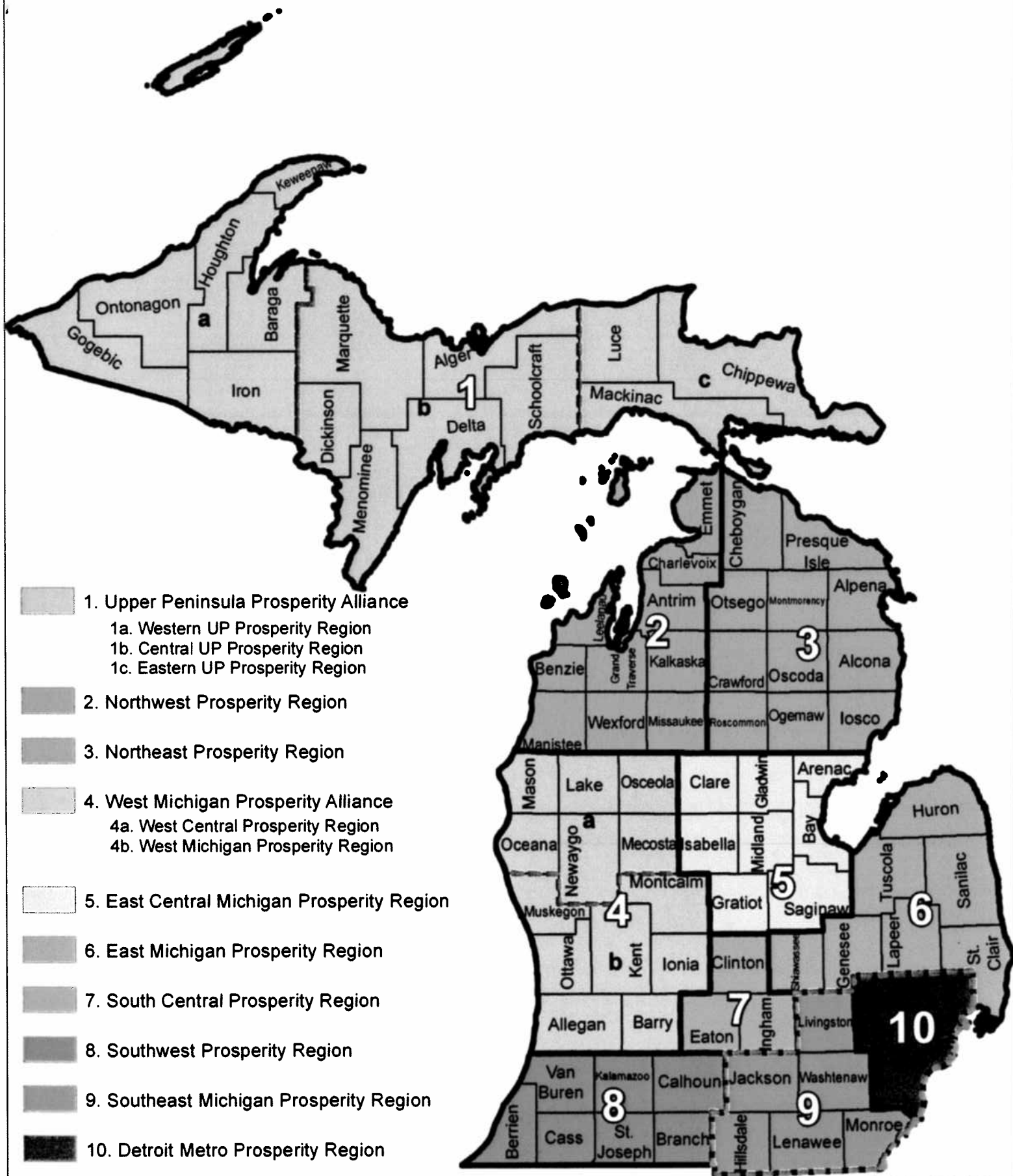
I would also be happy to have someone help you through this process if you decide to come into the One Stop Service Center. Informational workshops will be conducted throughout Oakland County at nine Michigan Works! Service Centers, starting the week of June 3<sup>rd</sup>. To assure your seat and an adequate supply of handouts and materials, please see the table below for specific details on workshop schedules and how to RSVP to your location of choice.

Date and Time	Michigan Works! Location	RSVP Contact Information
Monday, June 3 1 – 3 PM	Novi 31186 Beck Road Novi, MI 48377	Michelle York 248-926-1820 Ext. 13 MYork@goodwilldetroit.org
Monday, June 3 10 – 12 noon	Southfield Indian Southfield, MI	Lisa Straske 248-796-4567 lstraske@cityofsouthfield.com
Tuesday, June 4 9 – 11 AM	Oxford 1370 South Lapeer Road Oxford, MI 48371	Margaret Kelly 248-969-2399 Ext. 18 mkelly@goodwilldetroit.org
Wednesday, June 5 1:30 – 3:30 PM	Highland 2218 South Milford Road Highland, MI 48357	Missy Selfon 248-889-0410 Ext. 24 mselfon@goodwilldetroit.org
Wednesday, June 5 10 – 12 noon	Troy 550 Stephenson Highway Suite 300 Troy, MI 48083	Kathy Molesa 248-823-5117 Kmoles2@troy.k12.mi.us
Friday, June 7 10 – 12 noon	Oak Park 22180 Parklawn Room 108 Oak Park, MI 48237	Sherry Kless 248-691-8437 Ext.2970 skless@oakparkcareercenter.org
Friday, June 7 1 – 3 PM	Pontiac 1850 N. Perry St. Pontiac, MI 48340	Front Desk 248-276-1777
Wednesday, June 12 2 – 4 PM	Waterford 501 N. Cass Lake Road Waterford, MI 48327	Meilssa Hernandez 248-494-9999 HernaM01@wsdmi.org
Wednesday June 12 1 – 3 PM	Ferndale 713 E. Nine Mile Road Ferndale, MI 48220	Front Desk 248-586-8930

If you plan to attend the workshop and apply for VRAP training, please bring with you the following:



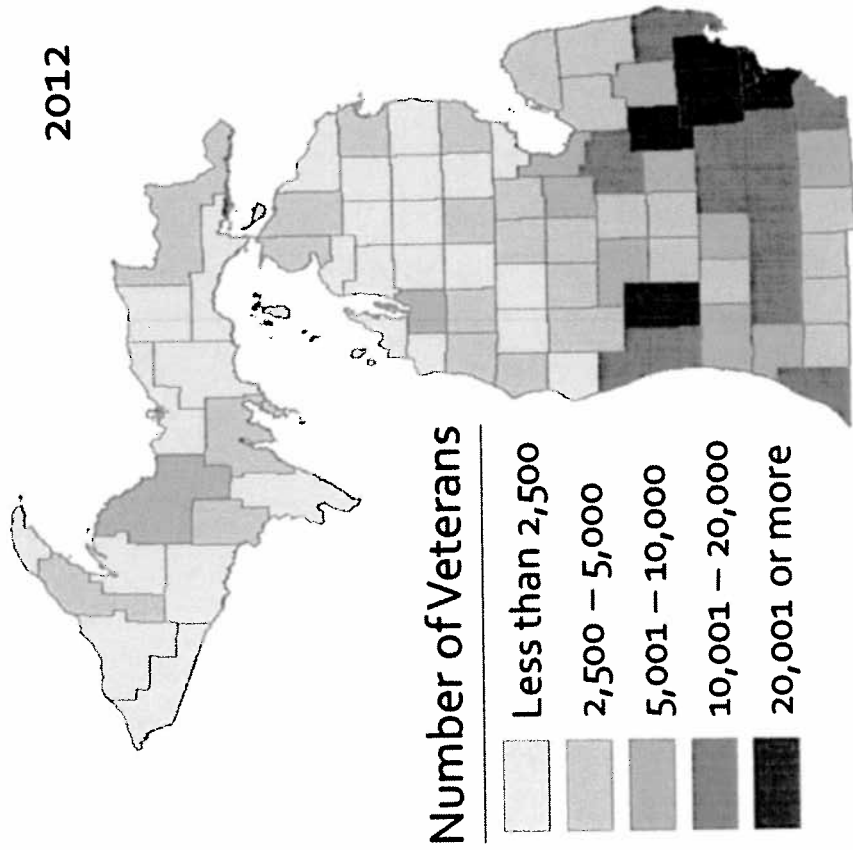
# State of Michigan Prosperity Regions



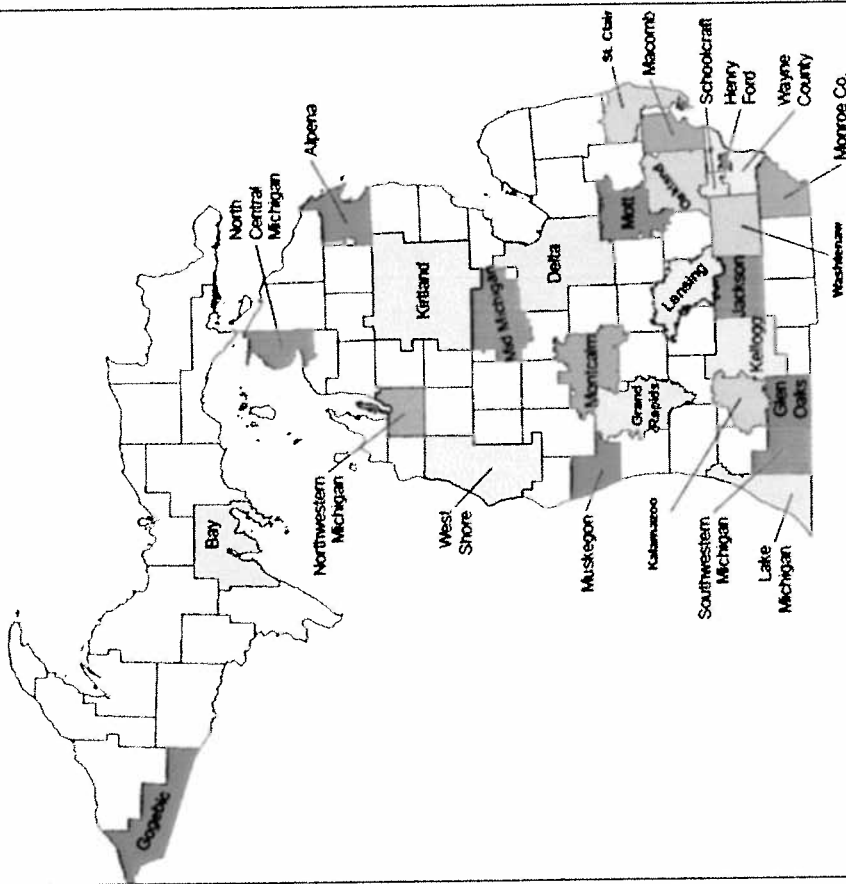
Service Delivery Regions

# Veteran Population by Michigan County

2012



# Michigan Community College Districts



Senate Fiscal Agency  
July, 2009

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION  
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The American Legion Department of Michigan





<http://global.cmich.edu/CMVE>

March 2013

*The Consortium of Michigan Veteran Educators (CMVE) mission is to serve all Michigan public community colleges and universities in their efforts to support student Veterans, military service members, and their family members.*

The consortium was founded by Central Michigan University in 2010. In 2011 the Presidents Council State Universities of Michigan and the Michigan Community College Association began work to formalize the consortium. In early 2012, Michigan's 28 community colleges joined with other key partners to create a statewide network to improve the support and services to our active military and Veterans populations.

The primary goal of the Consortium of Michigan Veteran Educators is to increase the number of service members, and their families, who take advantage of the educational benefits that are available to them such as the G.I. Bill. As part of this critical goal, the members of the consortium are also focused on ensuring Veterans that enroll in Michigan's public postsecondary institutions receive the support they need to successfully complete a credential that will lead to gainful employment and productive lives. A secondary goal of the Consortium is to serve as a convener of college and university staff to provide for professional development opportunities and sharing of best practices to better support the student Veteran population.

#### CMVE Activities:

**Professional Development Activities** – CMVE will sponsor the second annual conference on April 5 at Lansing Community College. This conference is intended for representatives from the 28 community colleges and 15 public universities who work with Veterans, and will include presentations and breakout groups in promising practices and institutional practices, updates from state and federal officials, and discussion on suicide awareness, military to civilian transition, and veteran spouse/dependent support. We have asked institutions for monetary support to help pay for the conference (no registration fee) and other professional development activities.

CMVE will be offering webinars, regional education trainings, and other opportunities to strengthen institutional knowledge and involvement in the coming year.

**Survey of Promising Institutional Practices with CMVE Institutions** – In January 2013, CMVE conducted a survey of institutional practices supporting Veterans. At the first gathering (March 2012) of the future CMVE, public university and community college representatives learned about The Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (for further information, <http://www.cas.edu>) and its standards and guidelines for Veterans and Military Programs and Services. CMVE recommends that each public postsecondary institution follow the standards that best fit its mission and environment. In a document that is being created for the April 5 conference, the CAS standards will be listed along with examples of institutions that are models for the standard or practice.

The CAS Mission for Veterans and Military Programs and Services (VMPS) *is to provide, facilitate, or coordinate programs and services for student Veterans, military service members, and their family members. VMPS must identify student Veterans and military service members and establish a community that connects and supports this population.*

*It is essential that institutions assist student Veterans, military service members and their family members with:*

- *Transitions from military service to higher education*
- *Issues related to deployment of active duty students or call up for students affiliated with National Guard and Reserve Units*
- *Integration into institutions and campus life*
- *Reintegration following activation*
- *Establishment of procedures to facilitate progress toward education goals*

**CMVE Strategic Plan** – There are four CMVE Committees: Steering Committee, Best Practices & Professional Development, Recruiting & Marketing, and Student Veteran & Military Service Member Support. Each committee has created a plan for action and the Steering Committee has taken the plans to create an overall strategic plan for this year. The Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from CMVE institutions, US Department of Veteran Affairs, and Michigan Dept of Military & Veteran Affairs. We also keep the MI County Veteran Counselors and MI College Access Network involved in our discussions. The strategic plan focuses on recruiting and marketing to potential students including military members, Veterans, and their families; professional development opportunities outside of the annual conference; and increasing student Veteran groups efforts and impact on campuses and in the communities.

**Outreach Efforts** – CMVE has been actively involved with several outreach events including Yellow Ribbon events, Dept. of Defense Worldwide Education Expo in Las Vegas, US Department of Veteran Affairs 2012 Small Business and Hiring Fair, Hiring Our Heroes at Selfridge AFB, and representation at out of state bases. In addition, CMVE has presented at several statewide conferences: MI County Commissioners VA Task Force, MI Center for Student Success 2012 Conference, 2013 Retention Conference, 2013 Equity in the Classroom Conference, and 2013 MI Adult Education Training Conference.

**On-Campus Student Veterans** – The CMVE Student Support Committee has been working on making strong and lasting connections with recognized student organizations on campuses across Michigan. These connections include educating and training the student organization leaders on best practices for helping student Veterans and military members on campus. The Committee hosted a Student Veterans of American regional conference in fall 2012. CMU hosted the conference.

**Promoting Action on Credit Transfer** – Many Michigan institutions currently use the American Council on Education's guide for College Credit for Military Service but the implementation of awarding the credits can be cumbersome and not easily undertaken. A multi-state effort called Promoting Action on Credit Transfer (PACT) has been form with representatives from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky. Michigan has been asked to join PACT to help augment the current efforts in Michigan. The ultimate goal of the collaboration is for every service member and Veteran student to receive the full measure of academic credit for military training and experience to s/he is entitled using all recognized evaluation methods and applying the credit towards the degree.

Visit <http://global.cmich.edu> to contact institutional representatives or feel free to contact Chris Baldwin, Michigan Community College Association ([cbaldwin@mcca.org](mailto:cbaldwin@mcca.org)) or Patricia Farrell-Cole, Presidents Council State Universities of Michigan ([pfarrell@pcsum.org](mailto:pfarrell@pcsum.org)) for further information.

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## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

# POST-9/11 GI BILL: YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM



## WHAT IS THE YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM?

The Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program (Yellow Ribbon Program) is a provision of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. This program allows institutions of higher learning (degree-granting institutions) in the United States to enter voluntarily into an agreement with VA to fund tuition and fee expenses that exceed VA's maximum amount payable. The institution can contribute a specified dollar amount of those expenses and VA will match the same amount as the institution not to exceed 50% of the difference.

### PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS AGREE TO:

- Provide contributions to eligible individuals who apply for the Yellow Ribbon Program on a first-come, first-served basis, regardless of the rate at which the individual is pursuing training in any given academic year
- Provide contributions during the current academic year and all subsequent academic years in which the institution is participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program and the student maintains satisfactory progress, conduct, and attendance
- Make contributions toward the program on behalf of the individual in the form of a grant, scholarship, etc.
- State the dollar amount that will be contributed for each participant during the academic year
- State the maximum number of individuals for whom contributions will be made in any given academic year.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Only individuals entitled to the maximum benefit level (based on service requirements) may receive this funding. Active Duty members, spouses of Active Duty members eligible for Transfer of Entitlement and Fry Scholarship recipients, are not eligible. Other individuals who may be eligible are those who:

- Served an aggregate period of Active Duty after September 10, 2001, of at least 36 months
- Were honorably discharged from Active Duty for a service-connected disability and served 30 continuous days after September 10, 2001



Disability determined by VA to be related to your military service can lead to monthly non-taxable compensation, enrollment in the VA health care system, a 10-point hiring preference for federal employment and other important benefits. Ask your VA representative or Veterans Service Organization representative about Disability Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Caregiver Program, Career Services, Educational Assistance, Home Loan Guaranty, Insurance and/or Dependents and Survivors' Benefits.



**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**

- Is a dependent eligible for Transfer of Entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill based on an individual's service under the eligibility criteria listed above

#### **HOW DOES THE YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM BENEFIT A PARTICIPANT?**

The Post-9/11 GI Bill pays up to all public in-state tuition and fees. A participant may have tuition and fees that exceed that amount if s/he is attending a private institution, or attending in an out-of-state status. If s/he is enrolled at a Yellow Ribbon participating institution and the tuition and fees that exceed VA's maximum amount payable, additional funds may be available for an education program without an additional charge to entitlement. Institutions that voluntarily enter into a Yellow Ribbon Agreement with VA choose the amount of tuition and fees that will be contributed. VA will match that amount and issue payment directly to the institution.

For more information, call toll-free 1-888-442-4551 (1-888-GI BILL 1) or visit our website at <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.









	Yes	HB 0035	2.4%	2012 Maryland Ballot Measure Question 4 Approved by electorate 11/06/2012 Has language similar to DREAM ACT types of legislation. Allows veterans who attended secondary school in the state for at least 3 years AND graduated or its equivalency from a secondary school in the state to be charged in-state tuition. Veterans must produce documentation within 4 years after discharge.	http://imgaleg.maryland.gov/nr/cdmga/fmMain.aspx?pid=billpage&stab=01&id=hb0035&tab=schedule&sys=2013RS	5/23/2013
Massachusetts	NO	HB 1072, introduced 02/18/2013	1.16%		http://www.malegislature.gov/Bills/138/House/H1072	1/10/2013
Michigan	NO	Two House Joint Resolutions introduced on 2/28/2013; HJR12, HJR13, and HJR14	1.60%		HJR L: http://l.leg.state.mi.us/laws/2013/HJR12 HJR M: http://l.leg.state.mi.us/laws/2013/HJR13	3/5/2013
Minnesota	Yes		1.83%	"A state college or university must treat a veteran as a Minnesota resident for purposes of determining the veteran's undergraduate tuition rate."	https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/746/197.775&format=pdf	3/27/2013
Mississippi	NO	No pending or existing state legislation	0.92%	In-State Tuition allowed for Veterans if they meet the following criteria: (1) They were born in Mississippi, (2) veteran served in armed forces, (3) student is domiciled in Mississippi no later than six months after the nonresident student's separation from service.	RESIDENCY: http://www.jh.state.ms.us/board/downloads/policiesandbylaws.pdf MISSISSIPPI STATE VETERAN BENEFITS: http://www.vab.ms.gov/files/Benefits.pdf	3/27/2013
Missouri	NO	SB 117 passed senate; introduced in the House on 2/14/13	2.64%	The separating military member must have been duly stationed in Missouri for at least one year prior to his or her discharge.	CURRENT RESIDENCY LANGUAGE: http://www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/6c/6c10-3.pdf SB 117: http://www.moga.mo.gov/	1/10/2013
Montana	NO	No pending or existing state legislation	0.32%	The State of Montana waives tuition, but requires an honorably discharged veteran to be eligible to receive in-state tuition to receive the waiver. Montana also requires the student to utilize GI Bill (VA Benefits) first. The veteran is not eligible for the waiver until the VA benefits are no longer available. The veteran must be working on her first college degree; subsequent undergraduate degrees are not eligible.	http://www.umt.edu/borpo/bor900/940-13.pdf	1/10/2013
Nebraska	NO	No pending or existing state legislation	0.82%		http://nebraska.legislature.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=85-502	1/10/2013
New York	NO	No pending or existing state legislation	0.71%	Legislation suggested, but no evidence it was introduced	http://www.hqj.com/news/lawmakers-propose-in-state-college-tuition-rates-for-all-honorably-discharged-veterans-168231536.html	1/10/2013
New Hampshire	NO	HB 624; introduced on 01/01/2013, passed House on 03/21/13, in State Senate	0.28%		http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2013/HB624.pdf	1/14/2013
New Jersey	NO	No pending or existing state legislation	1.10%	New Jersey Administrative Code Volume 9A "Higher Education" - Chapter 5 "Residency Requirements for Tuition Purposes at Public Colleges and Universities"	http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/njcode/	1/14/2013
North Carolina	YES	SB 156; Effective 04/2009	0.74%		http://www.jmllegis.gov/Sessions/09%20Regular/final/SB0136.pdf	1/14/2013
North Carolina	NO	SB 197; introduced 01/04/2013	2.85%		https://open.senate.gov/legislation/bills/2013/SB197	4/2/2013
North Carolina	NO	SB 357; introduced 03/19/2013	3.17%		http://www.ncleg.net/applications/BILL.cdf?docId=Document_Legal_SessionCode=2013RD04Term=167088Session=0	4/2/2013
North Dakota	YES	North Dakota Century Code: 15-16-19.1, Nonresident and resident student for tuition purposes defined	0.30%		http://www.legis.nd.gov/cencode/n15c10.pdf	
Ohio	YES	127th Assembly; HB 459; Effective 04/2009	2.46%	Part of Ohio GI Promise	http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=127_HB_450	1/14/2013
Oklahoma	NO	SB416, introduced 02/04/2013; passed Senate 03/14/13; introduced to House 03/05/13	1.46%	Passed House 04/18/13	http://webserver1.sos.state.ok.us/CF/2013-14%20FLOOR%20AMENDMENTS/Senate/SB486%202-25-13%20(Simpson)%20FAI.doc	5/22/2013
Oregon	NO	Bill 2148; introduced 1/13	1.15%		http://landm.leg.state.or.us/lj3reg/measpdf/hb2158.intro.pdf	5/22/2013
Pennsylvania	NO	HB472; introduced 01/20/13	2.75%	Passed out of House 04/09/13	http://www.legis.state.pa.us/bd/00/00/bills/bill_history.cfm?year=2013&bill=08body+HBtype=Bill+bill=472	5/23/2013
Rhode Island	NO; School System Provides Waiver	No pending or existing state legislation	0.24%	No state law. RI Board of Regents set policy effective 06/2009	http://www.uri.edu/gadmis/documents/residency/BOG-va.pdf	1/14/2013



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Friday, 19 July 2013

## University of Michigan removes residency requirement

WASHINGTON, DC - Student Veterans of America (SVA) applauded a recent move by the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan that will allow veterans to qualify for in-state tuition rates in Michigan.

"In-state tuition is a down-payment on a veteran's future," said Michael Dakduk, executive director of SVA. "We applaud the Board of Regents for creating an obvious financial incentive for more student veterans to attend the University of Michigan. This is not only a strong step forward for student veterans, but a chance for the university to attract unique, tested talent to Michigan. The university and state will benefit from this decision."

The approved measure will qualify all currently serving active duty, reservists, and honorably discharged veterans for in-state tuition rates beginning in January of next year.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill only covers the cost of in-state tuition at a public university, forcing out-of-state veterans to secure other financial means to cover the remaining tuition balance or seek higher education elsewhere.

Nationwide, 18 states have laws allowing veterans to qualify for in-state tuition, including the neighboring state of Ohio. Eleven states, including the state of Michigan, have pending legislation granting in-state tuition to student veterans.

"I encourage the state of Michigan to follow the example of the University of Michigan by approving in-state tuition for veterans statewide," said Dakduk.

Currently, SVA is working with The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars on both state and federal legislation that will extend in-state tuition to veterans.

### About Student Veterans of America

SVA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit coalition of over 850 student veteran organizations on college campuses globally. SVA's mission is to provide military veterans with the resources, support, and advocacy needed to succeed in higher education and following graduation.

###

### **Media & News**

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### **Media Inquiries**

Please contact [media@studentveterans.org](mailto:media@studentveterans.org)

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Latest News 2013



Published on *The American Legion* (<http://www.legion.org>)

## Legionnaires get in-state tuition bill passed

By Andy Romey - May 9, 2013



Legionnaires were among those in attendance at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne when Gov. Mike Pence (R-Ind.) signed a bill into law that gives all veterans in-state tuition rates at Indiana public schools.

Earlier this year, The American Legion identified as one of its legislative priorities the need to give veterans in-state tuition rates at all public universities and colleges, regardless of the veteran's state of residency.

Legionnaires in Indiana took up that cause, fighting for and earning passage of S.B. 177. The measure, which was signed into law last week by Gov. Mike Pence, grants in-state tuition eligibility for all honorably discharged veterans and active National Guard members who enroll in an Indiana state university within a year of living in the state.

The legislation was heavily advocated for by Indiana Department Commander Richard Jewell and other Legionnaires in the state, who fought for the bill's authoring then helped it move through both of the state's chambers.



## Guest view: University of Michigan's decision to grant in-state tuition status to veterans is good for state

MLive/Flint Journal opinion By MLive/Flint Journal opinion

on July 28, 2013 at 9:40 AM, updated July 31, 2013 at 8:23 AM



Jeff Barnes

Courtesy photo

By Jeff Barnes, director of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency applauds the University of Michigan Regents for their decision to **grant in-state tuition to anyone who serves in the military** or was honorably discharged, regardless of the student's state of origin. Offering military members and veterans from across the nation the ability to attend the University of Michigan at in-state tuition rates will help both the university and our state attract the talent Michigan needs to build a thriving economy.

Over the next five years, analysts estimate approximately 10,000 to 15,000 veterans will move to Michigan annually as a result of force restructuring that will downsize the military's active duty component. Many of these veterans will enroll in higher education, largely thanks to the benefits available to them through the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

For the veteran, this decision will remove an obstacle to pursuing their education at the University of Michigan. Though most veterans and service members that have served in Iraq and Afghanistan qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, it does not always fully cover the student's tuition. This is where other funding sources such as the Yellow Ribbon program, scholarships and personal finances are leveraged. It also makes it easier for a veteran to establish residency following their military service. Overseas deployments, permanent changes in duty station and other requirements of military life can make it difficult for veterans and their families to establish residency in any state.

For the state, this decision allows Michigan to be more competitive as a destination for top quality talent that has demonstrated their ability to lead, adapt and problem solve in some of the most extreme circumstances known. Veterans bring with them job-ready skills, proven leadership, a strong work ethic and a fierce sense of loyalty. Unafraid of new challenges, these men and women have demonstrated that they can work in diverse and unpredictable environments, cooperate as team players and shift gears at a moment's notice. These skills and traits are exactly what Michigan needs to succeed in tomorrow's economy.